

Development of Screening Criteria for Salton Sea Ecosystem Management Plan

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November 30, 2004

Use of Screening Criteria

⌘ A wide range of alternatives is being compiled for consideration for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Management Plan

☑ Previous studies

☑ Identified through the scoping process

☑ Identified by the Advisory Committee

⌘ Screening criteria will be used to focus the development of the final range of alternatives for impact analysis

Screening Criteria broadly reflects the Project Objectives

- ⌘ **Restore long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife**
- ⌘ **Maintain water elevations - with range of inflows & shoreline configurations**
- ⌘ **Maintain salinity at or below existing conditions**
- ⌘ **Protect water quality - nutrients, pathogens, selenium, other constituents**

Objectives - continued

- ⌘ **Elimination of air quality impacts caused by restoration plan**
- ⌘ **Transfer of up to 1,600,000 acre-feet in a manner consistent with restoration plan**
- ⌘ **Focus efforts in Salton Sea watershed**
- ⌘ **Consideration for:**
 - ☒ **Recreational opportunities and economic development**

Many Objectives included in Previous Screening Criteria

	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
Maintain for drainage	X		X	X	X
Protect fish and wildlife	X	X		X	X
Maintain elevations		X	X	X	X
Maintain salinity	X	X	X	X	X
Water quality		X	X	X	X
Affordable				X	X
Proven technology				X	X
Protect geothermal				X	

Development of Initial Screening Criteria

- ⌘ **For use to develop a reasonable range of alternatives to be evaluated**
- ⌘ **Screening Criteria will be consistent with but not the same as the Evaluation Criteria for comparison of final alternatives**
- ⌘ **Should be considered "first-cut" - may not answer all questions**
 - ☒ **ie, What are salinity or elevation goals??**

Potential Screening Criteria

- ⌘ **Consistent with Quantification Settlement Agreement and enabling legislation**
- ⌘ **Maintain the Salton Sea for irrigation drainage - per Executive Order**
- ⌘ **Consistency with Federal law**
 - ☒ **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**
 - ☒ **Others?**

Potential Criteria - continued

⌘ **Protect fish and wildlife**

- ☑ **Cannot cause jeopardy to any species under State and Federal laws**
- ☑ **Cannot cause ecosystem health risk - anywhere**
- ☑ **Provide sustainability of ecosystem**

⌘ **Focus on Salton Sea Watershed**

Potential Criteria - continued

⌘ Use of Available Technology

- ☑ Need to be available for implementation in next 10 years?

- ☑ Risk management of developing technology

⌘ Flexibility

- ☑ Range of inflows

- ☑ Adaptive management

⌘ Consider design-life

⌘ Consider life-cycle costs

EXAMPLE:

Apply Screening Criteria to Waterway to Gulf of California

CRITERIA	RESULTS
Consistent with QSA	Yes
Maintain Salton Sea for irrigation drainage	Yes
Consistent with Federal laws	Unknown (Mexico?)
Cause jeopardy to State & Federal listed species	Possibly
Cause ecosystem health risk	Possibly
Focus on Salton Sea watershed	No
Available Technology	Yes
Flexibility	Not Known

EXAMPLE RESULTS: Not Focused on Salton Sea & Possible Risks

CRITERIA	RESULTS
Consistent with QSA	
Maintain Salton Sea for irrigation drainage	
Consistent with Federal laws	Unknown (Mexico?)
Cause jeopardy to State resources	Possibly
Cause economic hardship	Possibly
Endangered fish and wildlife	No
Biological resources	Yes
Public safety	Not Known

Next Steps

- ⌘ **Compile comments and send list of potential Screening Criteria to Advisory Committee members**
- ⌘ **Consider application of Screening Criteria to initial list of alternatives previously developed in past studies and new alternatives developed for this study**